

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 19, 23 and 24 are pending and under consideration.

This Amendment and an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) are provided as submissions accompanying a Request for Continued Examination. It is respectfully requested that the claims be considered in view of the Amendment, the IDS and a decision by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences mailed February 13, 2004.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 4/6/04

By: John H. Stowe
John H. Stowe
Registration No. 32,863

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501